

FOUR NEW ASSISTANCE CENTERS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

EPA recently opened four new Compliance Assistance Centers to assist small businesses, local governments and communities in understanding and complying with environmental regulations. These new centers focus on local government agencies, the paints and coatings industry, the transportation industry, and small and medium-sized chemical manufacturers. Each center offers web sites, telephone assistance lines, document fax-back systems, and e-mail discussion groups.

The Compliance Assistance Centers are designed to make regulatory and pollution prevention information available to local governments and small businesses so they can achieve compliance with environmental laws as easily and cost-effectively as possible.

Other assistance centers opened by EPA received more than 75,000 visits over the Internet during the first six months of 1998.

The four new centers bring a total of nine to the Internet. Other centers cover the metal finishing, automotive service and repair, printing, printed wire boards and agriculture industries. All of the centers are operated in partnership with industry, academic institutions, environmental groups, and other federal and state agencies.

Centers are selected to serve sectors in which there are a large number of small entities that come under federal environmental regulation. The centers make information available to those who want to do the right thing, but need answers to their questions. Since not all small businesses have access to the Internet, the centers also provide information through toll-free phone lines and fax mail.



The nine EPA compliance assistance centers provide regularly updated compliance policies and guidelines, pollution prevention information, sources of additional information and expertise, summaries of regulations

and initiatives, vendor listings and directories, environmental management software and tools that can be downloaded from the Internet. Some of the centers also contain "expert help" features that guide a small business to information — "virtual shops" that allow a user to click on any facet of an illustrated operation and see what regulations apply, and on-line access to relevant state regulations.

The web addresses of the new compliance assistance centers are:

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	http://www.lgean.org
CHEMICAL INDUSTRY	http://www.chemalliance.org
PAINTS & COATINGS	http://www.paintcenter.org
TRANSPORTATION	http://www.transource.org

The web addresses of the existing compliance assistance centers are:

METAL FINISHING	http://www.nmfrc.org
AUTO SERVICE/REPAIR	http://www.ccar-greenlink.org
PRINTING	http://www.pneac.org
PRINTED WIRE BOARDS	http://www.pwbrc.org
AGRICULTURE	http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ag

1998 PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

The following companies and municipalities are participants in EPA's 1998 Partners for Change program. The program encourages New England businesses and municipalities to explore and implement responsible environmental practices in return for EPA recognition. For an application call EPA-New England at 1.800.906.3328.

Maine Partners

Minute Man Press, Portland

Recycles waste fixer and solvent. Reduced the amount of waste ink generated and reuses waste ink.

Ortho Craft, Machias

Reduced energy and water bills by turning off equipment when not in use. Reuses office supplies and packaging.

University of Southern Maine - Dept. of Facilities Management, Portland

Reduced waste, recycles, & minimized power & water consumption.

Massachusetts Partners

Andover Coated Products, Salisbury

Installed a system to capture and destroy volatile organic compounds (VOCs) before they are emitted to outside air. The system shows a consistent VOC destruction rate of 99.8% or better.

Applied Proactive Technologies, Springfield

In less than a year, approximately 160 pounds of food waste has been composted and diverted from the waste stream. Recycling paper has reduced trash by half weekly.

Browne's Garage, Inc., Norwood

Recycles anti-freeze; signed on with a waste hauler that recycles oil; replaced two toilets with two low-flow (1.7 gallons/flush toilets).

Burlington Board of Health, Burlington

Has signed on 48 firms responsible for managing 90 local buildings to participate in recycling programs.

Environmental Printing Alternatives, Worcester

VOC emissions have been reduced by 40%; 95% of paper, metal, plastic and cardboard are recycled or reused.

Finard and Company, Burlington

Implemented a recycling program for all building tenants. Energy efficient equipment has been installed.

Infinium Software, Inc., Hyannis

Recycles office paper and re-uses packaging materials.

J.P. Routhier & Sons, Inc., Littleton

Sponsors seminars on the use and application of scrap tire shreds as fill, backfill, mulch and landfill cover. Recycles and re-uses tire wire, rims and inner tubes.

Martin's Farm Recycling, Greenfield

Removed approximately 100 tons of waste (that would otherwise go to landfills) from restaurants, supermarkets, and produce markets. Organic material picked up from customers is used as compost on fields.

Massachusetts Operational Services Division, Boston

Runs the MA Environmental Procurement Program which requires the purchase of energy efficient computers and copiers, the reduction of toxic constituents in cleaners, and the implementation of integrated pest management approach to pest control by state agencies.

Maxwell Products Corp., Dorchester

Pumped out and properly disposed of contents from an oil/water separator; cut back on water use.

Pearson's Auto Repair Service, Fitchburg

Recycles or reuses antifreeze, freon, shop towels, and brake wash through contracted services. Burns waste oil, and drains and crushes oil filters in order to minimize waste disposal.

Stop & Shop Supermarket, Northampton

Composts fruit and vegetable scraps. The compost is used by area farmers.

Tri-Star Technologies Co., Inc., Methuen

Reduced hydrogen peroxide use by 50% and hydrochloric acid use by 90%.

Veryfine Products, Westford

Recycles and reuses 90% to 95% of the solid and organic waste that is generated in the bottling process.

Waltham Chemical Company, Waltham

Reduced use of conventional pesticides by 40% and completely eliminated the use of chlorpyrifos (dursban).

Watch All, Inc., Weymouth

Recycles and reuses paper products; purchases supplies and products that are packaged in an environmentally-preferable manner.

New Hampshire Partners

Hitchiner Manufacturing Co., Milford

In one year, the company recycled 6,789 tons of ceramic, 1,023 tons of scrap metal, 142 tons of cardboard, 11 tons of office paper, and 1.8 tons of aluminum cans.

Sterling Business Print & Mail, Peterborough

Recycles plastic bottles, aluminum cans, chip board and mixed paper.

Vectron Technologies, Hudson

Installed heat recovery equipment on a production line, saving approximately \$5,600 in heating costs per year.



AGREEMENT WILL STREAMLINE PROCEDURES FOR 5,000 MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESSES

An agreement between EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will streamline permitting and reporting processes for approximately 5,000 dry cleaners, photo processors and printers in Massachusetts. Instead of following the traditional permitting process, these small businesses will self-certify compliance with new standards that exceed those currently in effect. By the end of the year, this new program will include 10,000 companies.

The companies will certify annually that their facilities are in compliance with all applicable air, water and hazardous waste management performance standards. Facilities not in compliance will be required to specify interim milestones toward achieving compliance by a certain date. The expectation is that after an initial evaluation and revision phase, this permitting alternative could be transferred to other industry sectors throughout Massachusetts and other states.

The shift to this new program, called the Environmental Results Program, is expected to reduce wastewater discharges of silver by 99 percent from photo processors, emissions of perchlorethylene from dry cleaners by 43 percent and significantly reduce emissions of smog-forming solvents and alcohol in fountain solutions from commercial printers.

The agreement was reached under EPA's Project XL (which stands for eXcellence and Leadership), a national program which tests innovative ways of achieving public health and environmental protection in a better and more cost-effective way. This is the tenth such effort under Project XL, the first one with a state and the first one involving the small businesses sector. Other innovative approaches are being tested with major corporations, such as Merck, Intel, Lucent and Weyerhaeuser.

DEADLINE NEARS FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK OWNERS

Are you an owner or operator of an underground storage tank (UST)? Was your tank installed before December 22, 1988? If you answered yes to both questions federal rules require that by **December 22, 1998** you must:

- ➔ upgrade the UST by adding spill, overfill, and corrosion protection;
- ➔ replace it with a new UST that has spill, overfill and corrosion protection; or
- ➔ properly close the old UST.

SPILL PROTECTION

Spills often occur at the fill pipe when the delivery truck's hose is disconnected. You must add spill protection by installing a "spill bucket."



OVERFILL PROTECTION

Overfill equipment is designed to restrict or stop the flow of fuel during delivery before the tank reaches full capacity. Your UST needs to have one of the following overfill protection devices:

- ➔ an automatic shutoff device; or
- ➔ an overfill alarm; or
- ➔ a ball float valve.

CORROSION PROTECTION

Some USTs already meet the corrosion protection requirements if they are made of noncorrodible materials (such as fiberglass) or their exteriors are heavily coated with noncorrodible material (such as ACT-100[®] tanks). Also, steel tanks that have a corrosion-resistant coating and cathodic protection (such as sti-P3[®] tanks) meet the corrosion protection requirements.

If your tank is not one of these types already protected from corrosion, you must add equipment that protects your existing tank from the damage of corrosion. You have three choices:

- ➔ add cathodic protection; or
- ➔ add tank interior lining; or
- ➔ combine cathodic protection and tank interior lining.

GET MORE INFO FREE

EPA has a 16-page booklet available that provides much more detail on meeting the December deadline. You can order this free booklet by call EPA's toll-free UST Hotline at 800.424.9346 and asking for *Don't Wait Until 1998: Spill, Overfill and Corrosion Protection For USTs*. You can also use the Hotline to ask questions about UST requirements.

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Read *Pollution Prevention & the Bottom Line* on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/region01/steward/neeat/>



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